

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:  
5 a movable barrier operator including a controller for controlling movement of a movable barrier; and  
a network interface electronically connected to the controller for connecting the controller to a  
10 network;  
wherein the network interface responds to requests received on the network by sending a status of the movable barrier over the network.
- 15 2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a push button control unit for the movable barrier operator.
3. The apparatus of claim 2 further  
20 comprising a serial interface between the push button control unit and the network interface.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a modem coupled to the network interface.  
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5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the modem is a cable modem.
6. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the modem  
30 is a DSL modem.
7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network interface is connected to a home digital network.

8. A method for checking the status of a movable barrier comprising the steps of:

receiving from a network client over a  
5 network, a status request for a movable barrier;  
determining a status of the movable barrier;  
and

sending a status of the movable barrier over  
the network to the network client in response to the  
10 status request.

9. A method of claim 8 further comprising the  
step of receiving access authorizing information from  
the network client.

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10. A method of claim 8 further comprising  
the step of retrieving from a memory a web page in  
response to the receiving step.

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11. A method of claim 8 wherein the status of  
the movable barrier is open.

12. A method of claim 8 wherein the status of  
the movable barrier is closed.

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13. The method of claim 8 wherein the network  
client is a computer.

14. The method of claim 8 wherein the network  
30 client is a personal digital assistant.

15. The method of claim 8 wherein the network  
client is a cellular telephone.

16. An apparatus comprising:  
a barrier status identifier coupled to a  
movable barrier; and  
5 a network interface electronically connecting  
the barrier status identifier to a network;  
wherein the network interface responds to  
network conveyed requests by sending a status of the  
movable barrier over the network in response to a  
10 request for the status of the movable barrier.
17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the  
status monitor is wirelessly connected to the network  
interface.
- 15 18. The apparatus of claim 16 further  
comprising a modem coupled to the network interface.
19. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the  
20 network interface is connected to a home digital  
network.
20. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the  
network interface is a TCP/IP network interface.
- 25 21. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the  
network interface couples the controller to the  
Internet.
- 30 22. The apparatus of claim 18 comprising an  
arrangement for establishing authorization for requested  
for status.

23. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the status of the movable barrier is displayed on a monitor of the computer.

5           24. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network interface receives a status change request from the network and the controller responds to the status change request by moving the barrier.

10           25. The apparatus of claim 1 comprising an arrangement for establishing authorization for received status change requests.

          26. A method in accordance with claim 8  
15 wherein the movable barrier comprises a barrier movement operator for controlling the movement of the barrier and the method comprises receiving a status change request from the network client and controlling movement of the barrier in response to the status change request.

20           27. A method in accordance with claim 26 comprising receiving authorizing information from the network client before controlling movement of the barrier in response to the status change request.

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